

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-2

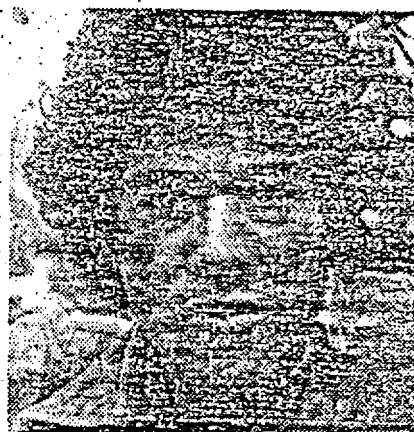
WASHINGTON STAR
9 OCTOBER 1978

Phillips, John A.
5024.012 Mushroom

Q and A

Making Bomb 'Easy, Scary,' Says Author

John Aristotle Phillips, 22, who designed an atomic bomb two years ago as a project in physics during his junior year at Princeton University, has recently written a book, "Mushroom," with David Michaelis, a former college roommate, chronicling their years at Princeton. He was interviewed by Washington Star Staff Writer Sue Mullin.



—Margaret W. Azzori

JOHN A. PHILLIPS
A bootleg bomb — not if, but when

EXCERPT:

Q: You were approached by representatives of foreign governments for the design?

A: Yes, I was approached by a representative of the Pakistani government, for one. This was at a time when France was attempting to sell nuclear technology for plutonium re-processing to Pakistan. Pakistan had promised the French and promised skeptical U.S. officials they had no intention of using this technology for bomb-building. Just at that moment I was contacted by Pakistani officials who wanted my bomb design.

Q: After you were approached by the Pakistani, you called Sen. Proxmire and he put the FBI and CIA in touch with you. What measures did the FBI take to prevent your documents from falling into the wrong hands?

A: Even before they got involved to protect me, parts of my report were deleted at the suggestion of my professors. I don't even have a copy of it now. It's all locked up. I don't care to have a copy of it. The FBI and CIA weren't investigating me in any way, however. They did arrange for a guard, but I've been asked, and I think wisely so, not to discuss the security arrangements.